Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/06/29: CIA-RDP90B01370R000801050108-9

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3329
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0176
RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 5181
BT
C D N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 08352

E.O. 12356: DECL: DADR TAGS: PREL, CH, UK, HK

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION ON HONG KONG

REF.: STATE 129568

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT

DEPARTMENT'S RECITAL TO SFRC AND SENATOR MURKOWSKI STAFFERS OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF A CONGRESSIONAL RESOLU-TION SUPPORTING SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IS ON THE MARK. IT'S EVIDENT THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A GAP BETWEEN WHAT THE PEOPLE HERE WANT FOR A SETTLEMENT AND WHAT THE BRITS CAN GET OUT OF THE CHINESE. THE BRITS ALREADY FACE A TOUGH SELLING JOB AND THEY WOULD BE FURIOUS OVER A CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVE WHICH WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE THEIR TASK. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BRITS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WELCOME A PROPERLY MODULATED DISPLAY OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE BUILDS FOR SOME SAY ON HONG KONG, DEPARTMENT MIGHT SEEK TO SHAPE IT ALONG LINES OF EXISTING POLICY, DRAWING ON OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE PRC.

LEVIN

END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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